



CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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*Bureau of Agriculture Development & Resource Conservation
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Connecticut Farm Wine Development Council

Regular Meeting

Via Teams

Thursday, July 11, 2024, at 10:00 AM

[View Recording Here](#)

Members Present: Commissioner Hurlburt, Jamie Jones, Linda Auger, Hilary Criollo, Jonathan Edwards, Rich Ruggiero

Members Absent: George Motel, Cara Sawyer, Ellen Woolf, Indrajeet Chaubey, Washington DaSilva

DoAg Staff: Ally Hughes, Michael Wolf, Kayleigh Royston

1. Call to Order

Commissioner Hurlburt called the meeting to order at 10:15 am.

2. Review and approval of:

a. Regular Meeting Minutes from May 9, 2024

Linda Auger moved to approve the May 9th minutes as presented. Seconded by Johnathan Edwards. All in favor, motion carried.

3. Public Comment

No public for comment.

4. Reports

a. Marketing

i. Socials Update

Ally Hughes gave a report regarding social media views and email blasts that have gone out this season.

b. Legislative

Kayleigh Royston and Commissioner Hurlburt discussed results from this previous legislative session and potential topics to review ahead of next year's session including damages to vineyard crops and the increase in bear sightings across the state.

c. Big E

Ally Hughes is in the process of sending the application to the Town of West Springfield. Ally is also working on purchasing an under-the-counter cabinet safe to have at the Big E as well. Johnathan Edwards expressed interest in purchasing a third cooler if funds allow it.

d. Research and Education

The council discussed continuing planning for another speaking event for next year. A topic of interest was the potential

e. Passport

i. Mobile Application Update

Michael Wolf provided an update on the passport mobile app with current statistics regarding viewership, downloads, stamps, and trends for the 2024 season. Discussion regarding the balance and response to the hybrid passport system ensued.

f. Financial

i. Budget Update

Ally Hughes reported that there was an available budget of \$78,295.44 and the total available funds minus liabilities is \$39,295.44.

Hilary Criollo moved to approve the budget update as presented. Seconded by Jaimie Jones. All in favor, motion carried.

5. Old Business

a. Action on an additional Big E application:

i. Bishop's Orchard

Hilary Criollo moved to accept Bishop's Orchard to participate at the Big E. Seconded by Linda Auger. All in favor, motion carried.

b. Action on additional printing of paper passports

Ally presented multiple options to order more paper passports based on expressed interest from multiple vineyards. This would be approximately 5,000 booklets at \$4,492 which equates to between 100-200 booklets per winery, or 10,000 booklets at \$6,886 (\$0.68 per book) which is roughly 200-400 booklets per winery. The goal would be to get these new passports delivered to vineyards by early August.

Richard Ruggiero motioned to order 10,000 more paper passports at the cost of \$6,886 to be distributed to the wineries in the program. Linda seconded. All in favor, motion carried.

6. New Business

7. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:24am

Respectfully submitted July 11th by Michael R. Wolf, Agriculture Marketing and Inspection Representative